

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 022893

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM D. ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT QUITO 734 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

INFO GUAYAQUIL MEXICO, JANUARY 31ST:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0734

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF FISHING VESSELS

REF: A) STATE 21515 B) QUITO 709

1. SUMMARY: PROTEST ALONG PRECISE LINES CONTAINED PARA 2  
REFTEL MADE TO GOE FONMIN LUCIO PAREDES AFTERNOON JANUARY 30.  
LUCIO PAREDES REPLIED BY RECITING GOE LOS POSITION AND  
HIMSELF PROTESTING "PROVOCATIVE" INCURSION OF US FISHING  
VESSELS INTO ECUADOREAN-CLAIMED WATERS AT PRECISE TIME OF  
DISAGREEMENT OVER TRA. HE SAID GOE HAD ALREADY DONE WHAT  
IT COULD TO INSURE RAPID SENTENCING OF VESSELS AND HE WOULD  
LOOK URGENTLY INTO WHAT COULD BE DONE TO FURTHER EXPEDITE  
THEIR DEPARTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING DCM NEGROPONTE, AFTERNOON JANUARY  
30 I MADE ORAL PROTEST TO GOE FONMIN LUCIO PAREDES USING  
LANGUAGE CONTAINED PARA 2 REFTTEL VERBATIM.

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3. AFTER HEARING ME OUT, LUCIO PAREDES REPLIED THAT ABOUT 50 TUNA BOATS OF ALL NATIONALITIES HAD PURCHASED LICENSES TO FISH IN ECUADOREAN-CLAIMED WATERS THIS SEASON. HOWEVER A HANDFUL OF US-FLAG VESSELS AT PRECISE TIME OF TRA CONTROVERSY HAD "PROVOKED" GOE BY ONCE AGAIN COMING TO FISH HERE WITHOUT PURCHASING LICENSES. SOME OF THESE BOATS WERE WELL KNOWN TO GOE AND HAD COMMITTED SIMILAR VIOLATIONS IN THE PAST. LUCIO PAREDES SAID THAT GOE LOS POSITION WAS WELL KNOWN TO THE US; THAT IN FACT ECUADOR HAD CHAIRED THE GROUP OF "TERRITORIALIST" NATIONS AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE; AND IT WAS ONLY NATURAL, THEREFORE, THAT GOE WAS OBLIGED TO ENFORCE ITS DOMESTIC LEGISLATION WHEN CONFRONTED WITH SUCH BLATANT VIOLATIONS. LUCIO PAREDES SAID THAT HE, THEREFORE, FELT OBLIGED TO PROTEST THE "PROVOCATIVE" ACTS OF THESE FEW VESSELS, WHICH SOUGHT TO SOW DISSENSION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AT A TIME WHEN, DESPITE CERTAIN UNPLEASANT DIFFERENCES, WE ARE SEEKING TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. I ASKED LUCIO PAREDES WHAT IF ANYTHING COULD BE DONE TO EXPEDITE DEPARTURE OF VESSELS, PARTICULARLY ANY OF THOSE WHICH MIGHT DECIDE NOT TO APPEAL GOE SANCTIONS. LUCIO PAREDES REPLIED THAT GOE HAD ALREADY DONE WHAT IT COULD TO INSURE RAPID SENTENCING OF VESSELS AND HE WOULD INFORM HIMSELF IMMEDIATELY AND GET BACK IN TOUCH TO TELL ME WHAT NOW COULD BE DONE TO EXPEDITE DEPARTURES. I INFORMED LUCIO PAREDES THAT AS LONG AS THIS PROBLEM PERSISTED, WE WOULD HAVE A CONSUL CONTINUOUSLY STATIONED AT SALINAS TO FACILITATE CONTACT BETWEEN VESSEL CAPTAINS, CREW MEMBERS AND GOE AUTHORITIES.

5. LUCIO PAREDES SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT AMBASSADOR CARDENAS HAD BEEN ABLE TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT FORD SO SOON AFTER FORMER'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON AND DESPITE EXISTENCE OF SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US. FONMIN SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARKS AT CEREMONY. I SAID I THOUGHT HE WOULD FIND THEM OF INTEREST, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS TRA AND LOS, AND PROMISED TO SEND THEM TO HIM.

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6. COMMENT: FONMIN WAS CORDIAL, OUTGOING, BUT FIRM. HE CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT PRESENCE OF FIVE US-FLAR VESSELS IN ECUADOREAN-CLAIMED WATERS AT THIS PRECISE JUNCTURE WAS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO DISTURB US/EUCADOREAN RELATIONS SINCE, IN HIS VIEW, ECUADOREAN POLICY IS WELL KNOWN AS IS GOE'S RESOLVE TO CARRY OUT ITS DOMESTIC LAW.

7. I BELIVE THAT, AS WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED, GOE

WILL INDEED EXPEDITE PROCESS OF RELEASE WITHIN PARAMATERS  
OF ITS LAW. SINCE TIME FOR APPEAL EXPIRES EVENING JANUARY  
31, FRIDAY, I ASKED FONMIN WHETHER IN CASE OF NON-APPEAL  
THE NECESSARY ACTIONS (I.E., REMOVING THE CATCH,  
ETC.) COULD BE PERFORMED OVER THE WEEKEND. HE PROMISED  
TO LET ME KNOW.

8. FONMIN'S COMMENTS ON ALGIER'S OPEC CONFERENCE  
FROM WHICH HE JUST RETURNED JANUARY 29 WILL BE  
REPORTED SEPTEL.  
BREWSTER

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP DETENTION, FISHING BOATS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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